

Demobilization Task Force

MSgt Haddix

Background –

At the end of Desert Storm, thousands of Reservists separated from Active Duty.

The SMCR Disbursing Platoon had been redesignated NBC Unit leaving no 3432 Marines in the SMCR to mobilize and accomplish the task.

The task of computing final pay and travel allowances was assigned to the 1st and 2nd FSSG Disbursing Offices.

The majority of the 3432's at 1st and 2nd FSSG deployed to support of the war effort which left very few Marines in the SMCR to accomplish the task of separating the Reserves. Upon reassignment to CONUS, the Disbursers who deployed were left to bail out the log of separations and travel payments.

Background (Cont'd) –

Due to late reporting and sheer volume, many pay-r were omitted in final pay and tax tables for separating Ma not correct.

The DFAS Separations Section identified out-of-bala accounts to HQMC in such volume that a team of “experts” formed and dispatched to DFAS to correct the problems b 1991 CY W-2’s were issued.

The Marine Corps Disbursing On-Site Exam Teams (MCDOSET) along with select other Disbursing personnel tiger Team at the end of the year to correct records and p accurate W-2 for each separating Marine.

Trends and differences in pay computation and enti determination were identified between 1st and 2nd FSSG.

Background (Cont'd)

As Operation Iraqi Freedom was building, HQMC RFP to examine demobilization issues as pertain to Financial M

It was determined that Individual Augmentees would be processed by the local Disbursing and Finance Officer who had been supporting them since they were recalled. These personnel include those mobilized through one of the five Mobilization Processing Centers (MPC's) located at Camp Lejeune, Camp Pendleton, Quantico, Cherry Point, and MCAS Miramar.

It was also decided that all SMCR Units would be supported by a team of Disbursers who would form NLT 15 June 2003 at the Marine Corps Support Activity in Kansas City.

This team would become known as the Demobilization Finance Office.

Background (Cont'd)

An agreement between HQMC P&R and HQMC M& allowed RFF to assign disbursing personnel already being “Stop Loss” to the Demob Finance Office. Selected personnel their current ECC extended until 30 September 2003.

SNCO Support was given by both MCAAT Teams and various offices in the field.

The Finance Officer was pulled from Policy & Procedure the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

Facilities and equipment were procured from MCSA office was stood up in the former MCSA Finance Office facility.

The Team -

Finance Officer - CWO4 Dennis C. Grayless

Pay Chief - MGySgt Bradley J. Blocker

GySgt Jaime Gomez

GySgt Kevin O'Connor

SSgt Melvin Evans III

Sgt Angelo Genova

Travel Chief - MSgt Donna Rodriguez

GySgt Joseph Pettis

GySgt Christopher Vullo

SSgt Bennie Helton

SSgt Ruben Garcia

The Process –

The Demobilization Finance Office was established as a Disbursing Station Symbol Number 0018 as a deputy office to Mr. Curtis Wilson at DFAS-KC Disbursing.

The operation was set up and it was decided to field the Document Tracking & Management System (DTMS) as the primary delivery method for all pay related documents.

Travel documents would be received by mail, fax, or email to an organizational mailbox.

All internal processes and systems would mirror a standard Field Finance Office.

The Mission –

Approximately 17,000+ separations and travel claims for SMCR personnel would be computed and paid over a six-month period.

Information on unit movements and returns were provided to HQMC PP&O and MarForRes.

Once a point of diminished returns was identified, the unit operation would be disbanded and the residual SMCR unit would then be separated by the field offices which currently provide service to that SMCR Unit's Inspector / Instructor Staff.

Advantages to the Field -

Returning FSSG Disbursers would not be burdened with a massive number of pay and travel settlements and the overhead associated with processing those claims.

All SMCR units would be paid out of one location, providing standardization and equity in both entitlement determination and timeliness of payment delivery.

All SMCR Units would be paid out of the same DSS, which would provide an easy method of tracking settlements in the future. If entitlements were backdated and supplemental payments would be necessary.

All settlements would remain resident in DTMS for reference.

Advantages (Cont'd) –

The use of “Stop Loss” Disbursers for the first 110 alleviated using assets from Field offices. These Marines already been a loss at their Commands, so they were esse

Extending the majority (voluntarily) of the “Stop Lo through 31 December alleviated using field assets for pha the operation.

Field Offices were left untouched so that they had t force necessary to handle their individual influx of separa “Stop Loss” lifting and the increase in travel volume from being rescinded.

Advantages (Cont'd) -

Individual Augmentee Disbursers were brought on to assist in separating the IA's at 1st and 2nd FSSG. This allowed personnel to assist in handling the volume of pay and travel induced by "Stop Loss" and "Stop Move" at the two large commands.

II MEF brought on approximately 10 IRR Disbursers

I MEF did not bring on IRR Disbursers, but were directed to bring on eight "Stop Loss" Disbursers by HQMC RFF to assist.

Several Smaller Offices brought in IRR Disbursers to utilize mobilization billets that they had on their T/O's.

Disadvantages -

None Realized other than a LOT of working hours.

The Numbers -

1500 Reservists would be separated through the MPC

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400 Reservists would be separated through the MPC

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100 Reservists would be separated through the MPC

17,000 + SMCR Reservists would be separated through
Demobilization Finance Office at MCSA.

Total Reserves Separated - Approximately 20,800.

(Note: The Marine Corps normally processes 30,000 seps

Lessons Learned -

Reach Back Disbursing doesn't work if there is no one to reach back to. ICR's exceeding 2000 pages in length at Pendleton and Lejeune with only a skeleton crew there.

We need to analyze the way IRR Disbursers were used in conflict. Many were used for non-disbursing type work until time to demobilize.

We need to analyze the way we were "reactive" to the need for centralized disbursing support (Demob Finance), and "proactive" by planning to stand up a Mobilization Finance Office supported by a mix of Active Duty and IRR billets during the operations of this size.

Many enhancements were made to DTMS thanks to the trials, and tribulations at the Demob Finance Office.

Do you understand !?

Did I make myself clear

Are there any questions

